

PRESS RELEASE

Düsseldorf, July, 24, 2006

Seventh wire rod block in succession from SMS Meer GmbH

Modernization of the wire rod mill with installation of an FRS[®] block successfully completed at Riva/SAM

Modernization of the high-performance wire rod mill at Société des Aciéries de Montereau (SAM) in Montereau, France, part of the Riva Acciaio S.p.A. Group, Milan, Italy, was successfully completed at the beginning of 2006 with the commissioning of the FRS[®] block.

The modernization was carried out in two phases. Commissioning of the three new water cooling lines was carried out following the annual summer closure in August 2005, while the FRS[®] block and pinch roll unit were commissioned after a short standstill period of only one week in January 2006.

SAM is now able to operate with higher rolling speeds. Significantly increased mill availability thanks to the shortening of the necessary changeover times is one of the further benefits for SAM offered by this modernization.

The heart of the equipment supplied for the modernization was a four-stand sizing block in FRS[®] (Flexible Reduction and Sizing) design. On this FRS[®] block, wire rod diameters from 5.5 to 16.0 mm smooth round and 6 R to 16 R rebars can be rolled with a maximum rolling speed of 110 m/s.

With this FRS[®] block, Riva Acciaio S.p.A. has now ordered the seventh wire rod block in succession from SMS Meer since 1999 for one of its various rolling mills.

The SMS Meer scope of supply also includes: three new cooling lines – one stationary water cooling section upline of the block, one between the existing wire rod block and the new FRS[®] block and a third water cooling section downline of the new FRS[®] block. In order to be able to produce the whole size range without changing the cooling pipes or equalizing zones, the second and third water cooling sections are designed for shifting between two rolling lines.

The CCT[®] (Controlled Cooling Technology) system belonging to the scope of supply serves for optimization, simple presetting and online control of the new water cooling lines.

A new pinch roll unit ensures the reliable transport through the loop laying head onto the loop cooling conveyor.

SMS Meer GmbH forms part of the Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology Business Area of the SMS group.

(38 lines with max. 55 letters)

SMS GmbH is the holding for a group of companies internationally active in plant construction and mechanical engineering relating to the processing of steel, non-ferrous metals and plastics. The group is divided into the Business Areas of Metallurgical Plant and Rolling Mill Technology, Tube, Long Product and Forging Technology and Plastics Technology. In the year 2004 some 9,500 employees worldwide generated a turnover of about EUR 2.20 bn.